

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings include a new sheet with FIG. 26. FIG. 26 shows features recited in claims 126-130 and 134, as described further below.

Attachment: New Sheet

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 40-42, 44, 45, 47-49 and 106-145 were pending in the application. Applicant has amended claim 40 to include the recitation of dependent claim 126 and has cancelled claim 126. FIG. 26 has been added and the specification has been amended to reflect the same. No new matter has been added.

Objection to Drawings

Applicant has added FIG. 26 to address the objection to the drawings in the Office Action without necessarily agreeing with the objection. FIG. 26 shows features recited in claims 126-130 and 134. Specifically, the figure shows the electrically conductive material (20) in direct contact with the first electrical contact (16a) as recited in former claim 126 and now in amended claim 40; the first electrical contact (16a) being formed, in part, from the electrically conductive material formed in the via as recited in claim 127; the first electrical contact (16a) extending to a backside (22) of the semiconductor device as in claim 128; the first electrical contact (16a) extending from a topside (18) to a backside (22) of the semiconductor device as recited in claim 129; the first electrical contact being formed, in part, on the backside of the device as recited in claim 130; and, the via (24) extending from a topside (18) as recited in claim 134.

FIG. 26 is supported generally throughout the specification and, more specifically, for example, at page 17, line 32 - page 18, line 4: "For example, backside contact 20 may extend to an active region within gallium nitride device region 14, such as a source region or a drain region. Also, backside contact 20 may extend substantially through the thickness of the device so that the backside contact also forms a contact on the topside of the device."

Because FIG. 26 shows the features of claims 126-130 and 134, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Rejection of Claims 40-42, 47-49, 106-112, 115, 116, 123-125, 127, 144 and 145

Claims 40-42, 47-49, 106-112, 115, 116, 123-125, 127, 144 and 145 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,537,654 (Brenz) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,521,917 (Takayama).

Claim 40 has been amended to include the recitation of claim 126 which does not stand rejected on this ground because the combination of Brenz and Takayama fails to teach or suggest the recitation in this claim when added to the recitations in original claim 40. Therefore, claim 40 is patentable over the combination for at least this reason. The remaining claims that stand rejected on this ground depend from claim 40 and, thus, are also patentable over the combination.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejections on this ground.

Rejection of Claims 44-45 and 113

Claims 44, 45 and 113 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brenz in view of Takayama and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,120,600 (Edmond).

Claims 44, 45 and 113 depend from claim 40. As noted above, claim 40 is patentable over the combination of Brenz in view of Takayama because the combination fails to teach or suggest each claim limitation. Edmond fails to provide the deficiency of the Brenz and Takayama combination with respect to claim 40 and, thus, its dependent claims. For at least this reason, claims 44, 45 and 113 are patentable in view of the Brenz, Takayama and Edmond combination.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejections on this ground.

Rejection of Claim 114

Claim 114 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brenz in view of Takayama and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,192,987 (Kahn).

Claim 114 depends from claim 40. As noted above, claim 40 is patentable over Brenz in view of Takayama because the combination fails to teach or suggest each claim limitation. Kahn

fails to provide the deficiency of the Berenz and Takayama combination with respect to claim 40 and, thus, its dependent claims. For at least this reason, claim 114 is patentable in view of the Berenz, Takayama and Kahn combination.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejection on this ground.

Rejection of Claims 117, 121 and 122 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 44, 45 and 113 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berenz in view of Takayama and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,156,581 (Vaudo).

Claims 44, 45 and 113 depend from claim 40. As noted above, claim 40 is patentable over Berenz in view of Takayama because the combination fails to teach or suggest each claim limitation. Vaudo fails to provide the deficiency of the Berenz and Takayama combination with respect to claim 40 and, thus, its dependent claims. For at least this reason, claims 44, 45 and 113 are patentable in view of the Berenz, Takayama and Vaudo combination.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejections on this ground.

Rejection of Claims 118-120

Claims 118-120 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berenz in view of Takayama in view of Vaudo and further in view of Edmond.

Claims 118-120 depend from claim 117. As noted above, claim 117 is patentable over Berenz in view of Takayama and Vaudo because the combination fails to teach or suggest each claim limitation. Edmond fails to provide the deficiencies of the Berenz, Takayama and Vaudo combination with respect to claim 117 and, thus, its dependent claims. For at least this reason, claims 118-120 are patentable in view of the Berenz, Takayama, Vaudo and Edmond combination.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejections on this ground.

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Respectfully submitted,

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